

Background

The 2005-2007 budget includes \$500,000 to test the effectiveness of web and handheld technologies in providing:

1. A single repository to track, manage, and report at local, regional, and statewide bases all habitat projects developed by the conservation districts.
2. A single repository for habitat data collected in a selected watershed through the use of hand-held data collection devices by the Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources, and Fish and Wildlife.

A report to the legislature on the project recommending future actions must be produced by December 1, 2006.

Actions to Date:

- Hired a contract project manager, Glenn Briskin
- Assigned a subject matter expert, Carol Smith
- Convened a steering committee representing stakeholders
- Sought interest in participating from conservation districts
- Completed a request for information from vendors
- Drafted a project charter to define goals, objectives, organization, and approach

Current Activities:

- Refining charter based on vendor input, steering committee deliberation, and stakeholder input
- Gathering specific requirements for project and monitoring data
- Preparing for a Request for Proposals to be released in March
- Identifying conservation district participants

Challenges:

- Establishing appropriate objectives and approach considering the ambiguities of the legislation
- Securing meaningful and realistic conservation district participation
- Communicating with, understanding agendas, and managing the expectations of many stakeholders
- Selecting and managing a capable vendor
- Completing a productive pilot test and understanding what would make a successful permanent solution
- Estimating the effort and ongoing requirements to implement and support a permanent solution

